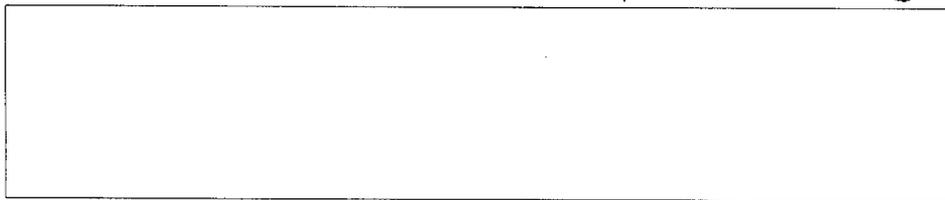


Sanders

25X1



~~HC~~ 25X1
~~TOP~~
~~HA~~
see

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
19 November 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

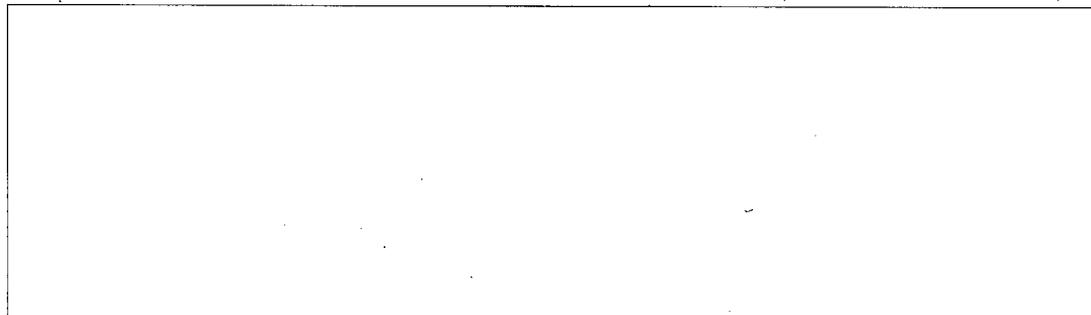
Situation Report Number 125
(as of 1500 EST)

NOTE

IP [

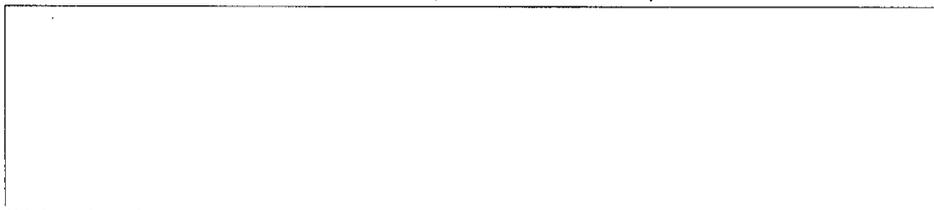
With this Situation Report, the CIA Middle East Task Force formally disbands; readers are referred to the Central Intelligence Bulletin for future coverage of current events in the Middle East. Task Force personnel will henceforth be operating out of their home divisions and branches, and will produce spot reports for the White House and other agencies as developments warrant. Tele-
phonic inquiries may be addressed as follows:

25X1



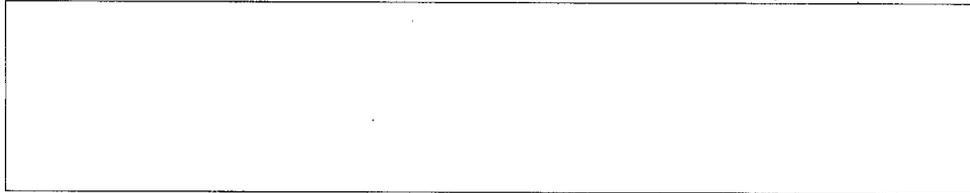
The CIA Operations Center  will field inquiries and requirements outside of normal duty hours.

25X1



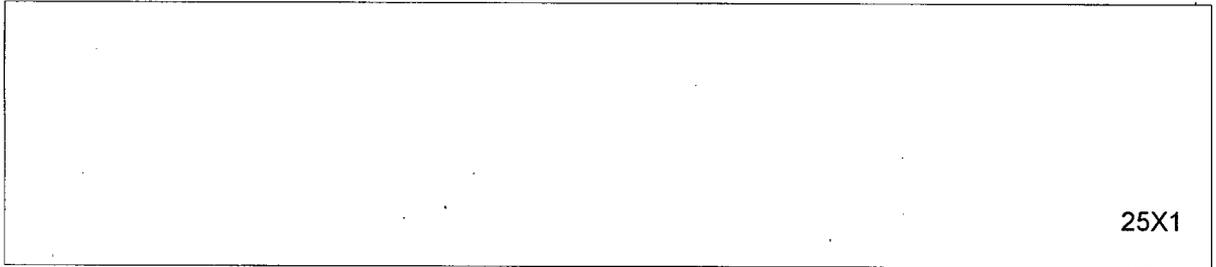
25X1

Page Denied

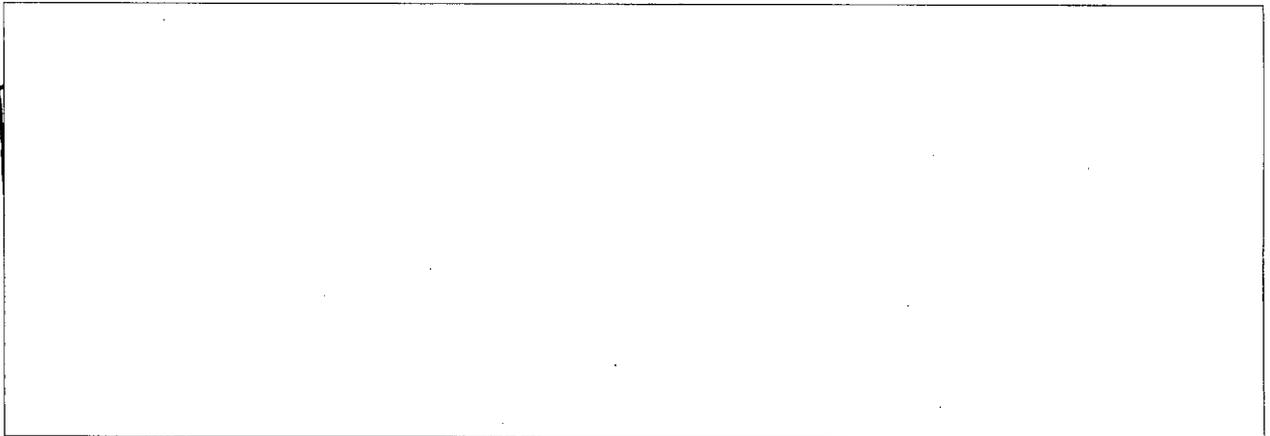


25X1

25X1



25X1



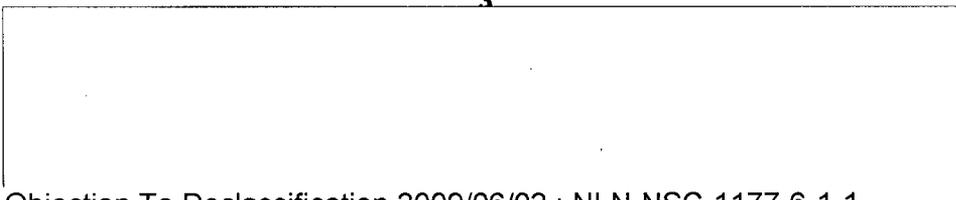
3. Arab public opinion, probably including most military officers, would likely support a renewal of hostilities, particularly if the prospects for achievement of political and territorial objectives through negotiation appear to be diminishing.

ISRAEL

4. One of the leading writers for the semi-official newspaper Davar has spelled out a series of issues which he holds should be settled prior to any Middle East peace conference. The Davar journalist says that Israel, before agreeing to discuss the issue of "secure borders," should first call for:

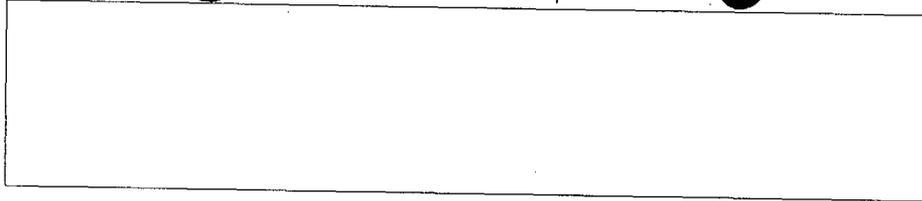
-- a termination of the Arab oil embargo so that negotiations can proceed free of threats. He raises the danger that the Arabs might try to use the embargo to push the Israelis back to the 1947 partition lines.

-- a US-USSR agreement limiting arms deliveries to the area.



25X1

25X1



- security guarantees (to Israel) from the major powers in exchange for Israeli withdrawal.
- major power agreement on navigation rights through the Suez Canal and Bab al-Mandab.
- elaboration of a plan for solving the Palestinian problem so that Palestinian "irredentism" cannot be used as a weapon against Israel's existence.

The US Embassy doubts that the Davar article was officially inspired, but it probably does reflect at least some Israeli worries.

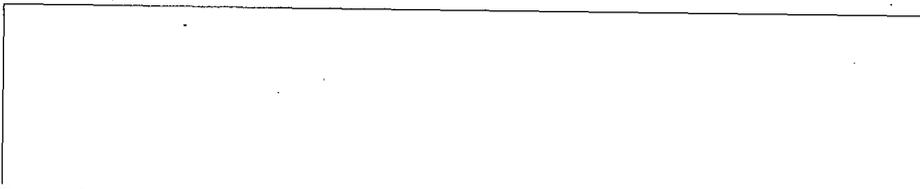
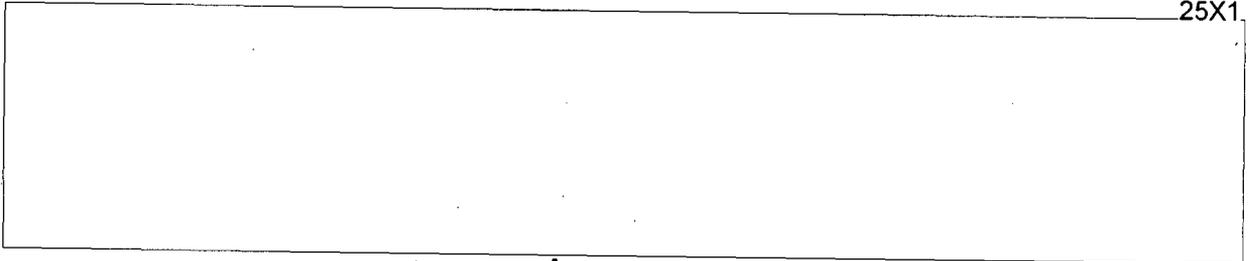
THE MILITARY SITUATION

5. The Egyptian and Syrian fronts remained quiet today except for some minor incidents in the canal area; one Egyptian soldier reportedly was killed. Israeli aircraft overflew the canal front, but drew no fire from Egyptian air defense units. Beirut claimed that the Israelis shelled southern Lebanon again yesterday and today, wounding five people.

OIL

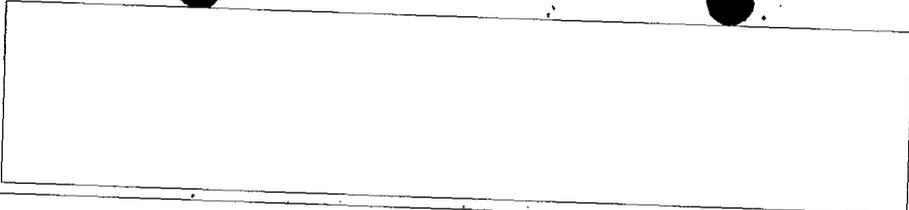
6. Saudi Arabia's petroleum minister warned Japan today that it will face further oil cutbacks unless it breaks diplomatic relations with Israel. The Saudi minister said the decision had been taken in concert with the other Arab oil producing countries that agreed yesterday to exempt most of the Common Market countries from the five percent cutback scheduled for December. The Japanese ambassador to Amman told Ambassador Brown that he thought Tokyo would give in, but it is unclear whether this represents anything more than his personal opinion. Japanese press comment appears strongly in favor of some pro-Arab gesture by the government in the wake of Sunday's OAPEC announcement.

25X1

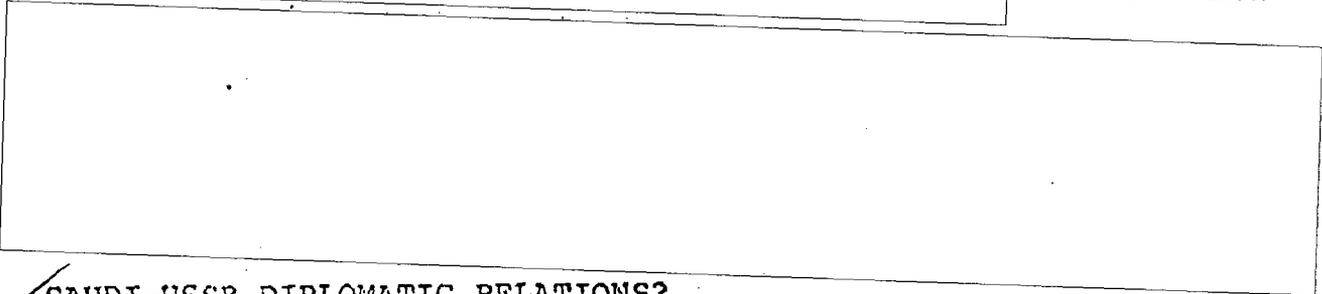


25X1

25X1



25X1



✓ SAUDI-USSR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS?

8. A politically independent Beirut newspaper reported today that secret discussions were under way to establish diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union. The paper said that King Faysal had accepted an invitation "in principle" to visit Moscow. Faysal exchanged greetings with Soviet leaders this year on Moscow's October Revolution anniversary, giving rise to speculation of this kind. Most other Arab press commentators, however, are reportedly treating the story with reserve because of Faysal's rabid, long-standing hostility toward communism.

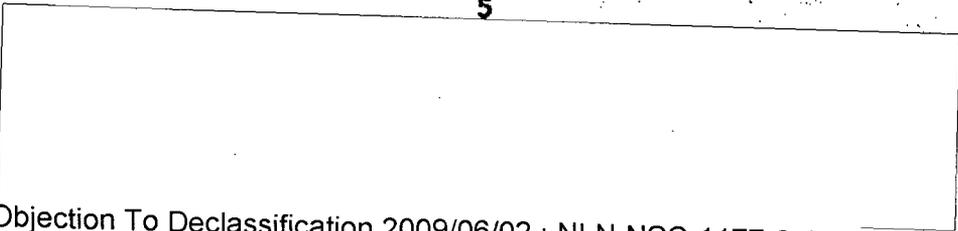
ARAFAT TO MOSCOW?

9. The Palestinian News Agency in Beirut announced today that Yasir Arafat and leaders of most of the major fedayeen organizations had left on their often postponed trip to the USSR. The delegation's departure had been delayed while both Arafat and the Soviets worked to convince the heads of the more radical organizations to go along. According to press reports, all are included in the present team except George Habbash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The PFLP has demonstrated its reservations about the trip by sending its number three man, Ahmad Yamani.

*see to
proofread*

*not clear
Yamani is PFLP
man on PLO Ex
Comm, so he is
not here on 6
go.*

10. The trip is designed to hammer out with the Soviets a common position favoring fedayeen participation in a peace conference and acceptance of a small Palestinian state that would coexist with Israel. This strategy represents a compromise for the more radical fedayeen leaders, just as the Soviets' acceptance of an incomplete delegation represents a compromise for them. The two sides' willingness to compromise and to coordinate their actions at this time, however, will augment the fedayeen's bargaining power at future peace talks.

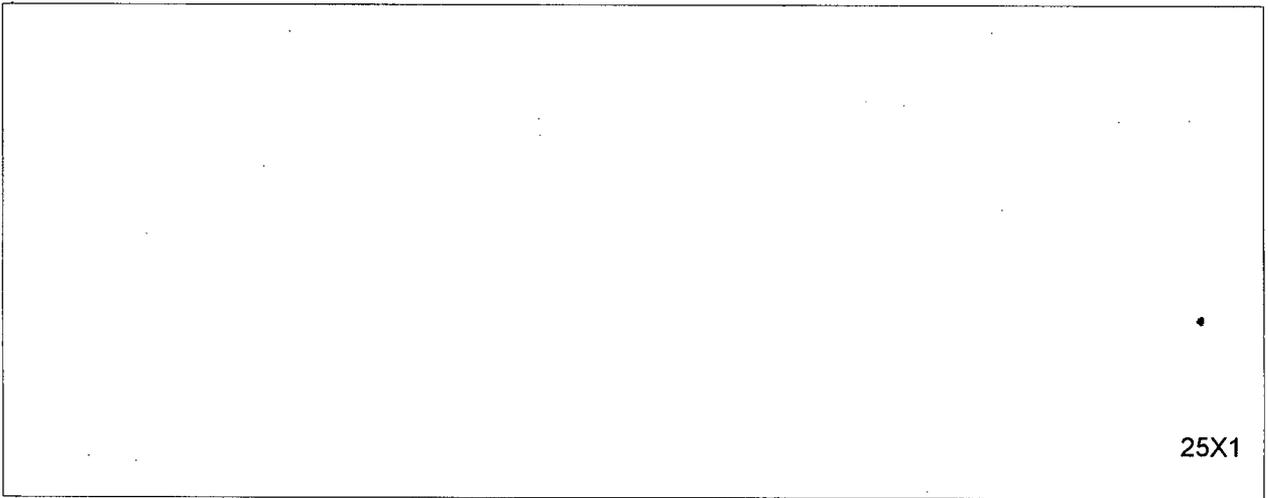


25X1

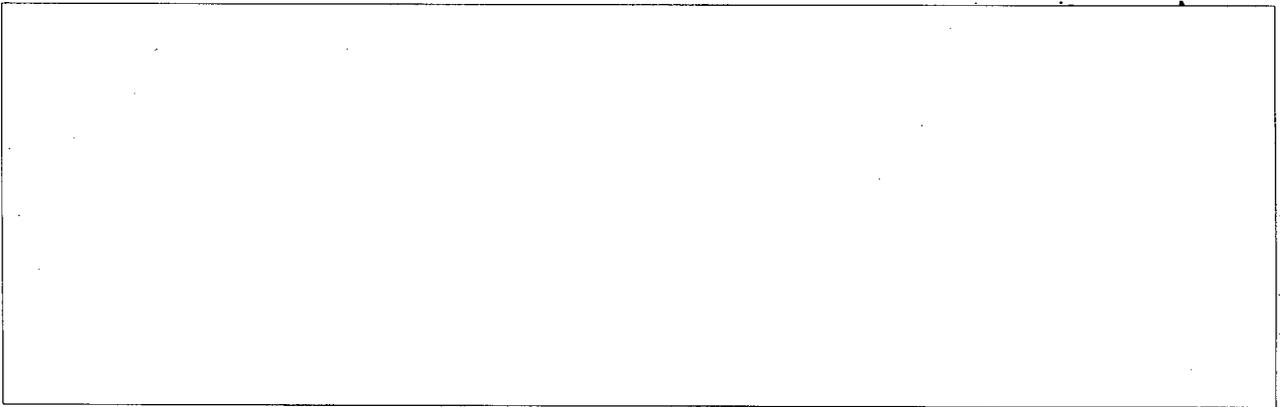


25X1

25X1

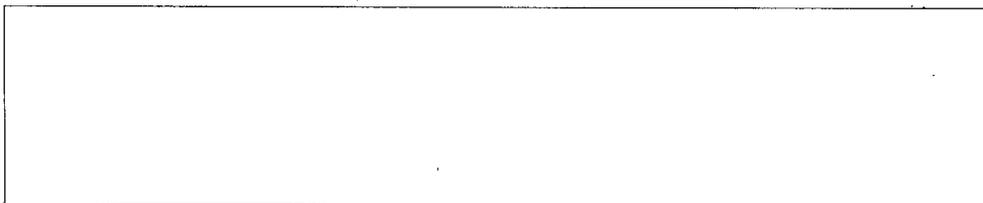


25X1



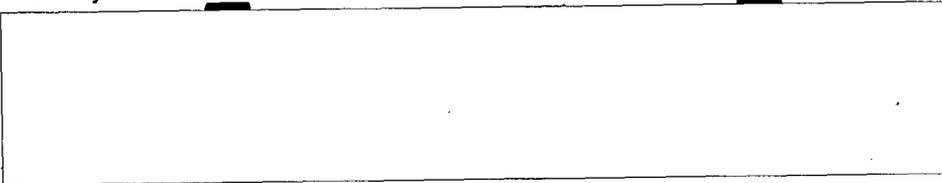
POW EXCHANGE

13. Another 20 Israeli POWs and 543 Egyptians returned home today, bringing the number released now to 162 Israelis and 5,084 Egyptians, according to an Israeli count. This leaves about half the prisoners from each side to be returned.



25X1

25X1



ANNEX

UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE

<u>STATE</u>	<u>PERSONNEL IN M.E.</u>	<u>SITUATION</u>
Sweden	537	Patrolling Ismailia area, one company on Cairo-Suez road.
Ireland	262	Patrolling between Israeli front and Egyptian second army, only unit now on east bank.
Austria	500	Patrolling Bitter Lake area, one 50-man company on Cairo-Suez road.
Finland	600	Patrolling Suez City and Israeli-controlled area to west, including disputed Suez road checkpoints.
Canada	400	Communications corps. Additional logistics units are being negotiated.
Poland	85	Airlift in progress. Full 200-man unit to provide engineering support for UNEF. Further Polish logistics contributions are being negotiated.
Peru	52	450 troops staging for airlift to Lod, will be deployed on east bank, Suez area.
Panama	40	Remaining 350 troops to be airlifted to Lod on 21 November and assigned to southern Sinai front.
Indonesia		582-man contingent to be airlifted 1 December. 32-man advance party will arrive 23 November.
Nepal		Has agreed to contribute 400-500 Gurkhas.
Ghana	9	Advance team for 600-man infantry unit.

25X1

